



# TANDEM INITIATIVE

non-profit organization

## For Immediate Release

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### ***Poetry Slam on Dec. 6 to benefit after-school program***

*Business owner launches effort after finding out  
Middle School student in Russell neighborhood can't read*

LOUISVILLE – A Western Middle School student recently came into the Expressions Café and Coffeehouse to buy some hot chocolate. Owner James Linton could tell he had some things on his mind, so Linton gave the young man a book. Much to Linton's surprise – the young man could not read it.

"That's disturbing to me," Linton said. "If his mother will allow it, I will have the young man here at the press conference at 10 a.m. on Wednesday." Instead of remaining in shock, Linton is launching an afterschool program. The Tandem Initiative is seeking retired educators, teachers and volunteers to help with the program by giving their time to help children build literacy skills.

We invite you to Wednesday's press briefing from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., where we will have more details of the program and this Sunday's event. Phoners, live and/or taped interviews will be given.

Events like the **5th Annual Poetry Super Slam** held at Mastersons Restaurant this Sunday will help raise proceeds to fund the afterschool program. The event, which brought about more than 1,100 residents of Kentuckiana last year, is expected to draw an even bigger crowd because of the economy. Sponsored by The Tandem Initiative, Expressions of You Café and Coffeehouse, No Limit Ministries, Becker and Becker Law Firm, B96.5, WLOU 1350, State Rep. Reginald Meeks. State Rep. Tom Reiner, Louisville Metro Councilman David Tandy and Masterson's Restaurant, the need for people to contribute to the causes they believe in is more important than ever.

"I am sick and tired of everyday working people only asking their pastors and politicians to make a difference. I am challenging people to make their own differences – their own changes," Linton said. "This afterschool program is for at-risk children and anyone who can get here for one hour every day."

**The annual poetry slam is a great event for the city of Louisville, bringing people together under the power of creative expression. The event will be held Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Entry fee for competitors is \$20. First place cash prize is \$300; Second place, \$200; and Third place, \$100. Mastersons is located at 830 South 3rd Street in Louisville.**

*To make donations to this cause, checks can be made payable to the Tandem Initiative/No Limit Ministries, 1800A Muhammad Ali Blvd, Louisville, Kentucky.*